

MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF VICTIM SERVICES MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, March 7, 2012

Baltimore County Public Library – Catonsville Branch

ATTENDEES

BOARD MEMBERS: Bonnie Ariano, Ellen Alexander, Barbara Bond, Walter T. Coryell, Jessica Dickerson, Linda Fleischer, Rea Goldfinger, R. Gery Hofmann, Kristen Mahoney, Kathleen O'Brien, Nikki Charles on behalf of Sandy Roberts, Debra Tall, Deborah A. Unitus, Frank R. Weathersbee, and Virginia Wolf.

STAFF: Anne Litecky and Nakita Long.

GUESTS: Peggy Basham, Buffie Burton, Deirdre Gardner, Carolyn Harris, Richard Howard, Michael Ito, Amy P. Jarkiewiez, Lydia S. Kim, John Spiroff, and Kim Ward.

WELCOME/CALL TO ORDER: Barbara Bond began the meeting at approximately 10:15 a.m. and welcomed guest victim service and law enforcement representatives from Baltimore and Harford Counties.

RETREAT REPORT/MINUTES:

- ❖ Motion: Move to approve Minutes of February 1, 2012.
- ❖ Vote: Seconded and unanimously approved.

GOVERNOR'S APPOINTMENT OF NEW STATE CHAIR

- ❖ Kristen Mahoney, Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention (GOCCP) announced the Governor's appointment of Ellen Alexander as the new Chair of the State Board.
- ❖ Ellen Alexander, Chair, thanked the Board for their vote of confidence.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

❖ Grants Committee

- The Maryland Victims of Crime (MVOC) and Legal Services for Crime Victims (LSCV) Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) was posted on GOCCP's website on January 10, 2012.
- Electronic submissions of the applications were due on February 14, 2012 and hardcopies were due on February 16, 2012.
- The majority of the Grant Review Committee approved the list of outside reviewers who will review and score the LSCV and MVOC grant applications.
- Between February 28 and March 20, 2012, outside reviewers will review grants.
- Grant reviewers will meet on March 21, 2012 to give their final scores.
- The Grant Review Committee will meet on March 28, 2012.

❖ Governor's Victim Assistance Awards Luncheon

- The Governor's Victim Assistance Awards Luncheon will be held at Club Meade in Fort Meade, Maryland on May 4, 2012 from 11:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m.
- Music will be played by Meade High School students.
- William "Bill" Johns will photograph the event again this year.
- The keynote speaker is Jill Harrington-LaMorie, LCSW, DSW, Senior Lead Field Researcher/Grief Counselor for the Center for the Study of Traumatic Stress.
- The cost for the luncheon will remain \$30 per person.
- The Governor's Luncheon Awards Committee will meet March 9, 2012 at 12:00 p.m. to review nominations.

❖ **Annual Memorial Services**

- The 23rd Annual Memorial Services will be held on Sunday, April 22, 2012.
- Theme: “Something Beautiful Remains”
- Hosts: The State’s Attorney’s Offices in Caroline, Charles, Howard and Washington counties.

❖ **Nominations Committee**

- Due to the appointment of the new MSBVS Chair, there is now a service provider vacancy for the State Board.
- If anyone is interested, you are encouraged to submit a letter expressing your interest. Application details are posted on the GOCCP website.
- Deadline: 30 days from today

❖ **Annual Report**

- The Ad Hoc Committee held a teleconference on February 10, 2012 and discussed reviewing other reports done by other similar Boards for guidance.
- “Recommendations to the Governor,” is a priority for the FY 2011 and FY 2012 Annual Report.

❖ **Legislative Committee**

- **2012 Proposed Legislative Chart (handout).**
- Board members were provided a copy of 2012 Victims Bills of Interest. Brief discussion followed re:
 - SB 626- Child Abuse – Failure to Report- Civil Penalty and Child Abuse Prevention Fund
 - GOCCP testified on March 6, 2012 in support of SB 626 which would create a civil penalty for individuals who fail to report child abuse.
 - SB 647 - Domestically Related Bill - After an individual is convicted of a certain crime, a judge would determine if the incident was domestic or not. If the incident is deemed to be domestic related it would become a reportable offense to CJIS.
 - SB 122 – Courts & Judicial Proceedings- Crime Victims and Witnesses Funds – Court Costs
 - This bill would increase the current cap on court costs deposited into the Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund and the State Victims of Crime Fund.
- State Board members are urged to contact the Legislative Committee with suggestions, ideas and feedback.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

❖ **Sentencing Guidelines Worksheet**

- **Status Update**
 - The Sentencing Commission is taking up the issue of removing the questions regarding victims from the Guidelines Worksheet as a few select people believe these questions do not further the goals of the Sentencing Commission.
 - State Board members were asked to come and speak with the Sentencing Commission on May 1, 2012 about the importance of keeping the questions on the Worksheet.
- **Granting Executive Clemency**
 - Gov. Martin O’Malley is taking steps to grant executive clemency to two Maryland inmates serving life sentences.
 - The State Board members were urged to contact Kristen Mahoney with any questions with respect to this matter.

COMMUNITY SPEAKERS

❖ **Turn Around, Inc.**

- Lydia Kim provided information about Baltimore County's TurnAround Program.
 - TurnAround provides victim advocacy and outreach services to victims of sexual assault and domestic violence in Baltimore County.
 - TurnAround has various resources for victims of crime
 - 24/7 helpline
 - Two full-time Victim Advocates and one part-time Victim Advocate
 - Counseling services
 - Court Accompaniment
 - Assist Human Trafficking victims

❖ **Greater Baltimore Medical Center (GBMC) SAFE Program**

- Linda Kelly, RN, FNE-A, provided information regarding services provided to victims of rape and sexual assault
 - Care is provided to victims of rape and sexual assault that occur in Baltimore County ages 13 and above.
 - Children 12 years of age and younger are cared for at Franklin Square Hospital.
 - By design, GBMC is the only provider in Baltimore County to offer the SAFE Program.
 - National statistics show that when a Forensic Nurse Examiner or SAFE Nurse has been involved, there is a greater opportunity for successful prosecution.
 - Court testimony
 - Suspect Examinations
 - Two Week Follow up call to access psychosocial needs
 - The national protocol for sexual assault services establishes that the services should be managed by a Sexual Assault Response Team.
 - The Baltimore County SART is held at GBMC every other month.
 - Community Education/Outreach
 - Domestic Violence Program

❖ **Baltimore County Police Department**

- Colonel M. Kim Ward expressed her gratitude for the opportunity to attend the Board meeting.
- She advised that there are 10 precincts and all of the following are geared toward victim outreach and victim advocacy.
 - Community Resources
 - Chaplains
 - Auxiliary Police
 - School Programs
 - School Resource Officer
- Domestic Violence (DV)
 - There is a DV Coordinator and an individual officer in each precinct that deals with how DV calls for service are being answered and how the lethality assessment is being done.

❖ **State's Attorney's Office of Baltimore County**

- Peggy Basham thanked everyone for the opportunity to be at the meeting. She provided a brief synopsis of the Victim-Witness Unit in Baltimore County State's Attorney's Office and some of the services they provide.
 - Staff: 9 full time employees, 1 grant employee
 - Primary mission: Inform victims and witnesses about the status of their criminal case.
 - Provide initial information in Circuit Court cases and trial information in District Court cases.
- Copies of Crime Victim Notification Request and Demand for Rights Form is scanned and maintained in the office and contact is made with the following agencies:
 - Attorney General's Office – referring Appeals
 - Detention Center's – Pretrial

- Division of Correction
- Division of Parole and Probation
- Parole Commission
- Baltimore County Victim/Witness brochures go out to every victim and witness in a Circuit Court case.
- Families of Homicide and Drunk Driving Fatality Support Group
 - Open ended peer support group, founded in 1990
 - Open to every county, not exclusive to Baltimore County
- Several other special units in the office include:
 - Child abuse
 - Sex Offense unit
 - Identity Theft Unit

❖ **Meeting Adjourned:** Guests and Board members were thanked for their participation.

The next Board meeting date and location to be announced.